

Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumental, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein and all members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am relatively new to the firearms community, having my concealed carry permit for not even an entire year yet. Previously, I may have felt similarly to how many of you may feel now about firearms and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. But when the pandemic hit, my eyes were opened to how fragile our society and democracy is; not only that, but what desperation and fear will drive people to do to others in their community. I never felt afraid for my safety and that of my loved ones. It was a sobering moment when we all realized no one was coming to help. At that moment you can choose to accept that or stand and not be a victim. I wasn't going to let myself or loved ones be the victim of theft, assault or worse.

I say this to you because firearms owners are often viewed through a Hollywood lens (or worse) as "hillbillies" and "gun nuts" that only care about having them because they can. The truth is that firearms ownership is a tremendous responsibility and one that all law-abiding gun owners take very seriously. At this point we are seeing the erosion of many of our rights hidden under the guise of common sense/ safety, and it needs to stop.

It is for this reason that I ask you to **Oppose** SB 16 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME. With Connecticut having some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, I find that it has had little to no impact on crime in the state. Of course we need to get illegal guns off the streets, but it should not penalize the law abiding firearms owner. Do we need to stop letting Juveniles go with little more than a slap on the hand? Absolutely. We're not going to get there by putting more restrictions on law-abiding citizens. FBI statistics show that most firearms crimes are committed by those who should not even have them. In addition, we don't even prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

In alignment with publicly available data on firearms, rifles with stocks and braces do not attribute to any significant number of crimes or incidents of suicide compared to that of handguns, which are easier to obtain and easily concealable. Semi automatic rifles such as the AR-15 are not utilized in inner city shootings or robberies anywhere in the state. While Sandy Hook was a tragedy, it does not give Connecticut law makers the right to restrict the ownership of so called "assault weapons" because a mentally deranged young man killed his mother to illegally acquire weapons and shoot up a school. By that logic, we shouldn't have knives, power tools, cars or anything that can be potentially dangerous or used as a weapon. Maybe we employ a little accountability on our legal system and prosecute criminals to the fullest extent of the law.

In reference to HB 5416 AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASE OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS, I ask you to **Oppose** this bill. I fail to see how limiting the purchase or transfer of a pistol or revolver to 1 per 30 days does anything but create a hinderance to local firearms

businesses and FFLs. It seems fairly evident that this is an attempt to restrict concurrent purchases which will expand to firearms accessories and ammunition over time and ultimately further restrict the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

In reference to the following, I ask that you **Support**:

SB 388 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S  
DWELLING PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE

This is the very reason I decided to go through the process of being able to own firearms. I don't believe it should be a criminal offense to defend my life and that of my loved ones. Nor should I be painted as a criminal in the eyes of my fellow citizens by the local media and government because I was forced to defend myself and chose not be a victim.

HB 5415 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE  
CAPACITY MAGAZINES

As a note there is no such thing as an assault weapon. Intent does not change what a thing is. There are no assault fists, assault cars, or assault kitchen knives. The AR in AR 15 stands for Armalite Rifle. On the subject of large capacity magazines most modern firearms come with a standard capacity of 15-20 rounds. I don't think people would appreciate if the government told people with cars that 20 gallon fuel tanks that they can only fill it to 10 gallons because we might use too much gas. Our lawmakers and press should educate themselves before developing their rhetoric. In reference to this bill I see no reason why someone that the state has dictated as a legal owner of said "assault weapons and large capacity magazines" can not transfer ownership to another lawful owner.

HB 5412 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF  
WORSHIP

In a life-or-death situation where you have the means to end a threat, it is absurd to think that we need to run first and allow others to possibly be harmed. Why there is such a push to make people victims first is beyond me. If you are asking me to retreat first then you are forcing me to become a victim first.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I appreciate your consideration as you vote on these bills.

Sincerely,

Mark Carlascio